TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1992 -- For the first time in history, railroads are now consistently moving more containers than trailers on a weekly basis. Although trailer volume topped container volume during the week ended March 7 for only the second time this year, containers accounted for 51.4 percent of total intermodal loadings for the first 10 weeks of 1992, up from 48.2 percent for the comparable period in 1991, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for about 94 percent of all rail carloads and 97 percent of rail intermodal loadings.

Overall, container volume is up 10.9 percent so far this year, while the number of trailers carried by major railroads has dropped 2.2 percent. Both were up in the most recent week, however, with containers showing an 8.7 percent increase and trailers inching up by 0.6 percent. The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 10 weeks of 1992 was 1,201,496 trailers and containers, 4.1 percent above the comparable 1991 total.

Total carloadings originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 7 totaled 321,046, up 0.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1991 and down 2.1 percent from the preceding week. Carloadings originated were up 0.5 percent in the East and up 0.3 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

Cumulative carloadings for the first 10 weeks of 1992 totaled 3,160,626, up 1.5 percent from the comparable period in 1991.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended March 7 totaled 20.7 billion, up 3.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1991. Cumulative volume for the first 10 weeks of 1992 was an estimated 203.5 billion ton-miles, up 4.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 7, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
		COMPARISON WITH			
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING MARCH 7, 1992	SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	30,669	29,360	4.5 %	29,845	2.8 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,624	1,505	7.9	1,738	-6.6
Metallic Ores	13,850	13,948	-0.7	14,303	-3.2
Coal	119,719	128,746	-7.0	123,534	-3.1
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	11,301	11,058	2.2	10,385	8.8
Nonmetallic Minerals	8,029	7,401	8.5	7,830	2.5
Grain Mill Products	10,375	9,854	5.3	10,557	-1.7
Food & Kindred Products	9,063	9,014	0.5	9,462	-4.2
Primary Forest Products	9,126	9,015	1.2	9,122	0.0
Lumber & Wood Products	5,897	5,123	15.1	6,874	-14.2
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,428	10,438	-0.1	11,211	-7.0
Chemicals	29,969	28,778	4.1	29,370	2.0
Petroleum Products	4,635	4,439	4.4	4,867	-4.8
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	8,808	8,803	0.1	8,317	5.9
Coke	5,227	4,286	22.0	5,408	-3.3
Metals & Products	10,056	9,206	9.2	11,058	-9.1
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	17,526	14,423	21.5	18,071	-3.0
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,391	8,087	3.8	8,460	-0.8
All Other Carloads	6,353	6,284	1.1	7,434	-14.5
Total	**321,046**	**319,768**	**0.4 %**	**327,846**	**-2.1 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
	WEEK ENDING MARCH 7, 1992			CUMULATIVE: 10 WEEKS ENDING MARCH 7, 1992		
TRAFFIC	1992	1991	CHANGE	1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**321,046**	**319,768**	**0.4 %**	**3,160,626**	**3,112,525**	**1.5 %**
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	61,950	61,587	0.6	584,378	597,787	-2.2
Containers	60,417	55,578	8.7	617,118	556,224	10.9
Total	**122,367**	**117,165**	**4.4**	**1,201,496**	**1,154,011**	**4.1**
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	**20.7**	**20.1**	**3.0 %**	**203.5**	**194.9**	**4.4 %**

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